



New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc.

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**STATEMENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND CABLE AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION ON HB 7152  
AN ACT ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF 5G WIRELESS  
FACILITIES.**

**Testimony of Timothy O. Wilkerson**

I am Timothy O. Wilkerson, Vice President and General Counsel of the New England Cable and Telecommunications Association, Inc. (hereafter, NECTA). NECTA is a regional trade organization that represents substantially all cable operators in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

NECTA applauds the Governor's attempt in **HB 7152** do more to promote wireless technology, building upon on Connecticut's already world-class telecommunications infrastructure. Our members support the legislation's *intent* to leverage Connecticut's existing robust competitive telecommunications marketplace to deploy even more broadband infrastructure across our state. Connectivity is key!

However, NECTA would respectfully note that the bill needs further modification to ensure the state is taking advantage of and facilitating the deployment of all the diverse technologies available throughout the state by NECTA members and others. For example, as currently drafted, the legislation neglects to include the next generation of Wi-Fi and future generations of 10G technologies that can help facilitate the economic revitalization goals of HB 7152.

In the past several years, NECTA members have deployed advanced Wi-Fi technology across the state. If the state ensures a focus lowering the barriers to investment on all wireless technologies, including the use of both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, it will help us continue this pattern of investment.

In addition, the cable industry recently announced groundbreaking advancements in wireline broadband. The 10G platform is the gigabit-enabled technology platform of the future that will deliver Internet speeds 10 times faster than today's networks with the power and capacity to change the way we live, learn, work, and play.

Our industry recognized that as we enter a new generation of technology innovation, the need to build a platform that supports our imagination and keeps us at the forefront of progress is vital. Whether it is meeting the incredible demand for video streaming or powering the smart cities and smart homes of the future, our digital progress will stall without an exceptional platform with the speed and capacity to meet our needs.

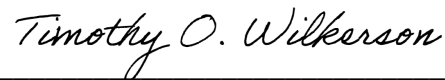
Truly forward-looking legislation should be technology-neutral in order to enhance existing investments and advance innovation across the board. Breakthroughs in wireline and wireless technology have revolutionized communications in our country and have enabled our innovation economy to flourish. Because we live in a digital world, it is crucial for states to embrace policies that recognize the benefits of new technologies and promote ongoing investment that will ultimately serve more Connecticut consumers.

In addition, to the extent this committee decides to move forward with a Council, the Council on 5G Technology, we think it is critical that its mission be technology neutral and that private sector entities that build and operate broadband networks be represented. These experienced entities will provide a perspective that is critical for the work of the Council.

NECTA looks forward to partnering with this committee, and the state, to further improve HB 7152 with the goal of supporting a full spectrum of broadband technologies. Establishing an innovation-friendly policy framework will accelerate the deployment of and investment in broadband infrastructure across Connecticut to meet the demands of the current economy and to promote the next wave of innovation.

For all the above reasons, NECTA respectfully submits this testimony on HB 7152.

Respectfully submitted,



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Timothy O. Wilkerson  
Vice President & General Counsel

Dated: March 4, 2019